THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) No such recent study has come to the notice of the Central Government.

(b) Does not arise.

Shortage of polio vaccine in West Bengal

545. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that acute shortage of Polio Vaccine has been reported from West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and what steps are being taken by the Union Government to supply enough quantity of these vaccines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Shortage of Polio Vaccine was resulted after June, 1987 due to the imported vaccines not satisfying the standards set under the revised procedure of testing and, supplies have been resumed to all the States/Union Territories from October.

Increase in number of doctors by 2000 A.D.

546. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD:

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item published in World Health Magazine by the World Health Organisation to the effect that till the end of the year 2000, a large number of doctors will be surplus in India;

(b) if so, whether Government have conducted any study in this regard; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and what is Government reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) There are a few articles in the World Health Magazine of April, 1987 in which the authors have pointed out that there will be a surplus of doctors in the world by the year 2000. No specific mention has been made about the expected extent of surplus of doctors in India in the year 2000 but the warning covers all the countries.

(b) and (c) No systematic survey has been made so far to assess the requirement of doctors by the year 2000 A D. However, in view of the increasing unemployment of medical graduates and also the imbalance in the ratio of doctors to para-medical workers, establishment of new medical colleges is not supported by the Government of India as a matter of policy, during the Seventh Plan period. The Medical Council of India is proposed to be entrusted with the task of advising the Central Government in matters regarding the manpower requirements in the field of medicine in accordance with the provisions of the Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Bill, 1987 which has already been introduced in the Rajya Sabha.

Rural telephone exchange in Karnataka

547. SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that rural telephone exchange systems designed by C-DOT are working well in Karnataka for the last one year;

(b) whether it is a fact that the concerned department has not given clearance to this technology; and

(c) if so, reasons therefor?